Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Twice Amended) A mud suction unit having a receiving container, to which a suction element is attached for drawing in a muddy fluid and a discharging element for setting the muddy fluid that has been drawn in into motion, said discharging container having a filling limit for said muddy fluid, and a motor for generating a suction flow, the mud suction unit comprising a shut-off mechanism operable to shut off said motor ~~automatically~~ when said filling limit of the muddy fluid is reached, characterized therein that the discharging element comprises a vacuum valve which is closed during a suction process due to the negative pressure present in the receiving container and opened when the motor is switched off ~~automatically~~ by said shut-off mechanism due to the change in internal pressure present in the receiving container.

Claim 2 (Twice Amended) A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the shut-off mechanism comprises that the motor is connected with a ball valve which is situated in the area of said filling limit in the receiving container and which closes in response to pressure applied to said ball valve by said muddy fluid when the filling limit is reached.

Claim 3 (Previously Amended) A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the receiving container has a connection for the suction element in an upper part of the receiving container at a cover end and a connection for the discharging element in a lower part

of the receiving container at a bottom end.

Claim 4 (Twice Amended) A mud suction unit according to claim 3, characterized therein that the suction element connection is diametrically opposite the discharge element connection.

Claim 5 (Previously Amended) A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the suction element has a grip area at which a remote control is located for switching the motor on or off.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended) A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that a suction tube is formed at one free end of the suction element on which a suction nozzle can be placed, the suction nozzle being provided with a claw-type lower part which has a number of webs.

Claim 7 (Previously Amended) A mud suction unit according to claim 6, characterized therein that the suction nozzle has a suction slit, the width of whose opening being adjustable.

Claim 8 (New) A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that said shut-off mechanism is operable to shut off said motor automatically.